



Hundreds of students aim to cash in at College Goal Sunday

SEATTLE – Hundreds of aspiring college students are expected to cash in on financial aid for college in seven cities across Washington on Sunday Jan. 28 – Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Everett, Lacey, Tri-Cities and Yakima.

The Northwest Education Loan Association is sponsoring the event for the first time in Washington to make sure more kids get the money they need for college. While affordability of higher education remains a critical problem for working families nationwide, only 25 percent of Washington's seniors completed federal college loan applications last year.

School advisors and NELA loan officers will be on hand to assist students and their families with completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), the form that's required to apply for financial assistance for higher education.

"The majority of college students need financial aid to attend college today," said NELA spokesperson Danette Knudson. "The biggest barrier to college is money and knowing where to get the money you need."

More than 63 percent of college and university students receive an average of \$7,400 a year to help pay for college. Completing the FAFSA is the first step in obtaining financial help from the government. Students are encouraged to fill out the FAFSA even if they are uncertain about their college plans.

"It is important that students and their families create a financial landscape that gives students a broad range of choices for higher education, whether they are headed for a four-year university or a local community college," Knudson said.

Pre-registration is not required, but there is an online sign-up to guarantee positions. Each session will begin at **2 pm** on **Jan. 28**. The step-by-step instruction will take about three hours. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to attend together because **household financial information** is a key part of completing the form. Besides financial records (recent tax forms and/or pay stubs, etc...), students need to bring their **social security number** and **driver's license** (if any). Even if families do not have all of their paperwork together they are still encouraged to attend the event to get the process started.

Cities and Locations:

- **Seattle**
Seattle Central Community College
1701 Broadway
- **Spokane**
North Central High School
1600 North Howard
- **Tacoma**
Tacoma Temple Theater
47 St. Helens Avenue
- **Everett**
Everett Community College
2000 Tower St.
- **Olympia – Lacey**
Lacey Community Center
6729 Pacific Ave. SE
- **Tri-Cities – Pasco**
TRAC Center
6600 Burden Blvd.
- **Yakima**
EPIC Center for Arts and Education at Mills Music
316 East Yakima Ave.

For more details about College Goal Sunday Washington, the FAFSA, locations or what to bring, visit www.collegegoalsundaywa.org or call 888-758-2253.

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